A NEW SPECIES OF *ACOURTIA* (ASTERACEAE-MUTISIEAE) FROM SOUTHERN MÉXICO

LETICIA CABRERA R.

Department of Botany, University of Texas at Austin
Austin, TX 78713, U.S.A.

ABSTRACT

Acourtia ovatifolia, a new species from Guerrero and Oaxaca, México, is described and illustrated. This species is similar in some characters to *A. lozanii*.

RESUMEN

Se describe e ilustra una nueva especie, **Acourtia ovatifolia**, colectada en Guerrero y Oaxaca, México. Esta especie es similar a *A. lozanii* en algunos caracteres.

ACOURTIA OVATIFOLIA L. Cabrera, sp. nov. (Fig. 1)

Acourtia lozanii (Greenm.) Reveal & King similis indumento glanduloso, foliis ovatis, et phyllariis apicibus adaxialibus reflexis glandulosis sed differt foliorum ad bases rotundatis, et capitulis flosculis paucioribus.

Perennial plant up to 1 m tall; stems several from the base, green to dark-purple, striate, densely stipitate-glandular and with scattered crispy-articulated hairs, with a tuft of wooly brown hairs in the leaf axils. Leaves, petiolate, with the main blades ovate to ovate-elliptic, 3 – 8 cm long, 1.5 – 4 cm wide, progressively decreasing in size towards the inflorescence, basally rounded, acute and short-apiculate at the apex, semicoriaceous, with a dense crispy-articulated indument with some of the hairs with small glandular tips, usually shiny and scabrid on the stipitate- to sessile-glandular upper surface, with both crispy-articulated and stipitate-glandular hairs on the veins, prominently veined on both surfaces; the margins entire to denticulate, sometimes slightly sinuate and subrevolute; petioles 1 – 3.5 mm long, with a dense indument of crispy-articulated and stipitate-glandular hairs. Inflorescence cymose; floral branch nodes with prominent tufts of brownish hairs; heads in clusters of several at the end of the branches or in loosely compound cymes, sessile to shortly pedunculate; peduncles up to 5 mm long, stipitate glandular, with a few leafy, ovate to elliptic and stipitate-glandular scales grading into the phyllaries; involucre cylindric to cylindric-campanulate, 1.5 – 2 cm tall; phyllaries in 4 – 5 series, dorsally stipitate-glandular, with the outer ovate, acute at the

SIDA 14(2):141 – 144. 1990.

reflexed, leafy-green tip, with the exposed adaxial surface stipitate-glandular, marginally ciliolate and the innermost oblong-lanceolate, gradually apiculate, adaxially glabrous; receptacle scrobiculate, glabrous. Flowers 9 per head; corollas pale pink, bilabiate, 11 – 12 mm long, including the 4 – 5 mm long outer tridentate lobe, with the inner two lobes slightly shorter; anthers 7 – 7.5 mm long with sterile pink tips; style and branches orange, 11 – 11.5 mm long, including the 0.8 – 0.9 mm long, papillose, truncate branches. Achenes linear-fusiform, 4 – 4.5 mm long, stipitate-glandular and hispidulous; pappus 9 – 10 mm long with white bristles in 3 series.

Type: MÉXICO. Guerrero: limestone hill 9 mi by road N of Iguala, in shrubby oak-woods, 1450 – 1790 m, 7 Feb 1970, *W. R. Anderson & C. Anderson* 5656 (holotype: MICH!).

Additional collections examined: MÉXICO. Oaxaca: Road Nacaltepec-Jayacatitlan, 7.8 km SW of Hwy 135, on steep slope in tropical forest with *Ipomoea, Brahea, Lantana hirta*, 1600 m, 20 Oct 1989, *Cabrera* 779, 780 (TEX).

As a part of a monographic revision of *Acourtia* (in prep.), a study of herbarium specimens revealed this previously undescribed species, collected in 1970 in the state of Guerrero by W. R. Anderson and C. Anderson. Attempts to locate additional material from the same locality were unsuccessful. Nevertheless, in a trip during October of 1989 to the state of Oaxaca, the same species was found coexisting with another *Acourtia* species, the scapiform *A. scapiformis* (Bacigalupi) B. Turner.

Only two individuals of *Acourtia ovatifolia* were found in the Oaxaca locality, growing in shady and steep places. Both plants had only a few buds, thus the flowering period may start during the winter, as is commonly the case for many other species within the genus. The type specimen was collected during the month of February and was in full bloom.

Acourtia ovatifolia is similar to *A. lozanii* in its phyllaries with reflexed and glandular tips, an unusual character within the genus. Both species have a glandular indumentum and ovate leaves, but in *A. ovatifolia* the leaves are rounded at the base, and in *A. lozanii* the bases are cordate to auriculate. Also, compared to *A. ovatifolia*, *A. lozanii* has a campanulate to hemispherical involucre and a greater number of florets per head (25 – 39). The rounded bases of the leaves, as well as the prominent tufts of hairs on the nodes of the floral branches, easily distinguish *A. ovatifolia* from all other *Acourtia*.

In *Acourtia ovatifolia* both types of glandular hairs, stipitate and sessile, are of a resinous nature. This characteristic seems to be widespread within the genus.

Bacigalupi (1931) recognized 44 species of *Acourtia*. With the species

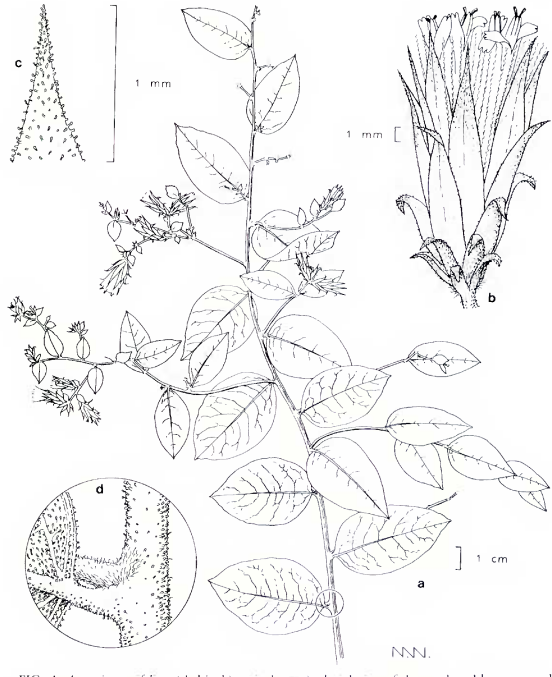

FIG. 1. *Acourtia ovatifolia*. a) habit; b) capitulum, c) adaxial view of the involucral bract apex; d) detail of the leaf-stem junction illustrating the indument. Illustration based on the specimen *W. R. Anderson & C. Anderson* 5656 (MICH).

described here, and others recently or in the process of being described, the number of species within this genus is ca. 60.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank Guy Nesom for the Latin translation and his critical review of the manuscript. I am grateful to Beryl B. Simpson, Gregg Dieringer and an

anonymous reviewer for their constructive comments, and Billie L. Turner for his support. MICH herbarium provided the specimen loan. The illustration was drawn by Nancy Webber. The field trip to Oaxaca was supported, in part, by a B. L. Turner Fellowship granted by the Department of Botany of the University of Texas at Austin.

REFERENCES

BACIGALUPI, R. 1931. A monograph of the genus *Perezia*, section *Acourtia* with a provisional key to the section *Euperezia*. Contr. Gray Herb. 97:1–81.

TURNER, B. L. 1978. Taxonomic study of the scapiform species of *Acourtia* (Asteraceae-Mutisieae). Phytologia 38:456–468.